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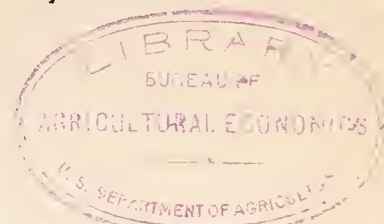
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
HE-33

19
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MAY 5 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

April 6, 1928



THE 1928 ITALIAN HEMP PROSPECTS

The 1928 hemp crop for the whole of Italy is expected to show a reduction from the 1927 crop, according to cables received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Consul General Byington at Naples and Consul Haven at Florence. While sowing in Northern Italy began in February, the subsequent cold weather together with the fact that considerable quantities of old seed had to be used, are believed to have affected germination adversely. Sowing in Southern Italy has been delayed until at present by unfavorable weather conditions.

Northern Italy

The prevalence of fine weather in the hemp producing areas of northern Italy during February led to early sowing but a subsequent cold spell is believed to have affected germination, according to Consul Haven at Florence. Furthermore, owing to the shortage of seed from the 1927 crop the 1928 crop had to be sown with seed from the 1925 and 1926 harvests and with seed imported from Yugoslavia. While the area sown amounted to about the same as last year, considerably more seed was used than usual because of the doubtful germination qualities of the old seed. It is estimated that 20 per cent of the seed sown will not germinate and that the hemp crop will consequently be 20 per cent less than in 1927.

The price of medium Bologna natural hemp on April 3 was \$13.66 per 100 pounds as against \$10.38 in July 1927 and \$12.90 in September 1926. While a large amount of hemp was sold to European mills early in the season due to the low prices prevailing, approximately 22,000 short tons of hemp are still on hand in Florence. This quantity, however, is hardly sufficient to meet the demands of the mills pending delivery of the new crop in August, states Consul Haven.

Southern Italy

Adverse weather conditions have delayed hemp sowing in Southern Italy this year and farmers are just beginning to sow, according to Consul General Byington at Naples. As a result no estimate can be made of the probable acreage to be sown until about one month from now. It might be noted that the encouraging market conditions favor some increase in acreage.

The stocks of old crop hemp now on hand in Naples are the smallest in recent years, amounting to only 7,700 short tons. It is reported that more than 22,000 short tons have been sold during the past seven months. Prices in Naples at present are firm at high levels. The price of medium quality hemp on April 3 was \$15.58 per 100 pounds f.o.b. Naples.

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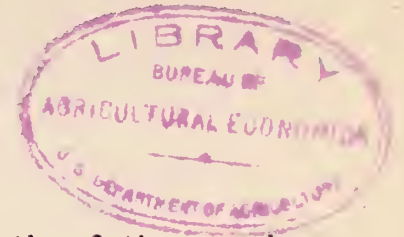
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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F.S.
HE-34

June 18, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

HEMP OUTLOOK IN ITALY



1.9
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JUL 14 1928

Unsettled weather has somewhat retarded growth of the new hemp crop in northern Italy, according to a cable received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Consul Haven at Florence. It is the general opinion, however, that if fine weather develops the crop will amount to approximately 77,000 short tons. Last year's hemp production in northern Italy amounted to about 71,500 short tons. Notwithstanding the fact that only moderate sales were made during the past two months, the hemp market in northern Italy has been maintained consistently at a firm level, states Consul Haven. This is due to the fact that available stocks there amount to only 17,600 short tons. The new crop will become available in August.

The sowing of hemp in southern Italy was delayed about one month this year owing to unusually heavy rains, according to a May 12 report just received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Consul Sydney B. Redecker at Naples. The crop is in excellent condition and granting good weather it is expected that it will amount to between 31,000 and 33,000 short tons. The area planted in southern Italy is practically the same as last year and any increase in production must, therefore, depend on a continuance of favorable growing conditions. Approximately 5,500 short tons of hemp from the 1927 crop still remain on hand in southern Italy. Due to these low stocks prices are at a high level.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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F.S.
HE - 35

July 6, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP



1.9
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JUL 14 1928

BRIGHT OUTLOOK FOR HEMP CROP IN SOUTHERN ITALY

The present prospects are that the hemp crop in southern Italy this year will be unusually good in both quantity and quality, if favorable weather conditions continue to about August 1, according to a report dated June 12 received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Consul Sydney B. Redecker at Naples. The sowing was delayed about a month owing to exceptionally heavy rains and the development of the plants was subsequently hindered by very rainy weather and low temperature. However, warm weather with abundant bright sunshine has prevailed for some weeks and apparently came just when most required for the best development of the plants.

The average height of the plants at the time of reporting was about four feet, while some plants were already up to six feet. The farmers generally were very confident as to the final results and felt that the plants should attain an average height of about nine feet this year if existing atmospheric conditions continued. If the plants attain that average, the production in southern Italy should amount to approximately 50,000 short tons, or an amount about double that of last year's crop. Reports from the country districts indicate that the hemp is of very good quality. The fibers are reported to be long, strong and very pliable. It is still too early to make a prediction concerning the color of the fiber as this will depend upon the weather prevailing during the harvesting period.

The mid-June stocks of hemp on hand in Naples remaining over from last year's crop were small, amounting to only about 3,900 short tons. There was a tendency toward a decrease in prices of the ordinary grades of hemp on the Naples market during May. The market was steady on June 12, with only small demand and very little actual business being transacted.

The following are the prices quoted on the Naples market: on June 12 for the leading grades of hemp from last year's crop:

	Dollars per 100 pounds
First grade, hand combed	19.07
Spago-extrissimo	13.83
Mixed (Spago, extrissimo and extra) ..	11.92

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
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F.S.
HE-36

July 12, 1928

FOREIGN NEWS ON MINOR FIBERS



FOREIGN FLAX FIBER PRODUCTION, 1927-28

The flax fiber production for the 1927 season in seventeen countries reported to date amounts to 1,236,626,000 pounds compared with 1,277,738,000 pounds produced in the same countries in 1926, a decrease of 3 per cent. These countries produced 97 per cent of the estimated world total in 1926 and 97 per cent in 1925. Russia, the largest flax fiber producing country, reports for 1927 a decrease of 4 per cent from the 1926 crop, but a 9 per cent increase over the production for 1925. In most producing countries, indications point to increased flax areas for the 1928 crop.

Flax prospects for the 1928 season

The increases in the area sown to flax for fiber indicated for this season in most countries outside of Russia are due largely to the favorable course of fiber prices, according to information received from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome. Reports received by the Institute from various governments are summarized as follows, together with some comments on Russia:

Russia

The Russian government and the cooperative organizations are paying considerable attention to means of increasing production of flax and raising the standard of flax growing in Russia. Higher yields per acre, which are now about half the pre-war yield, are particularly necessary. The government is taking measures to raise the quality of seeds and to extend the use of artificial fertilizers. It is proposed, also that the system of granting bounties to flax growers be extended. The experiment of advancing money to growers and including agreements for the purchase of the harvest, did not produce in the first year the results anticipated, but it has been decided to continue the system for the ensuing year on a larger scale.

Esthonia, Lithuania and Latvia

The favorable course of the Esthonian flax market indicates a probable increase this year in the area sown. In Lithuania no definite information is available as to farmers' intentions to sow flax this year, but it may be forecasted that the area will not be reduced, since market conditions and the supply of labor are favorable to the extension of this crop. The area under flax in Latvia is expected to show little or no change this year. At present, livestock rearing is being developed, and claims more attention, especially as regards milk production. Any shift in flax areas, therefore, would be expected to be downward rather than up.

Northern Ireland

Unfavorable weather in Northern Ireland during March continued during the first half of April. In the second half, however, especially toward the end of the month, the weather was very favorable to field work, and at the beginning of May the bulk of the flax crop had been sown. It is still thought that the area will be increased this year, but according to the latest information the increase will not be as large as was anticipated at the beginning of April, when it was estimated at about 25 per cent compared with last year.

Irish Free State

Preliminary reports from the Irish Free State indicate that there will be an increase in the area under flax this year. The relatively high price for flax during the winter is the principal factor inducing farmers to extend this crop, and it is estimated that the increase will be from 25 to 30 per cent over last year. The prolonger period of unfavorable weather, lasting until the middle of April, and delaying field work, may give rise to doubts as to the possibility of realizing the proposed increase, but according to the latest reports, preparations for sowings were fairly well advanced at the end of April, and were being carried out under favorable conditions.

Belgium

Following the favorable condition of the flax market during the winter, the area sown to flax is considerably greater than last year.

France

The active demand for linseed during recent months would indicate as probable an increase in the area under flax in the producing centers of the north of France.

Czechoslovakia

A preliminary estimate placed the area sown to flax this year at 53,519 acres, which is about the same as that of 1927.

Rumania

Reliable figures are not yet available as to the area under flax this year, but an increase is not expected.

Hungary

Toward the end of April the sowing of flax, considerably delayed by unfavorable weather, was still in progress in most districts. In some regions early sowings had already germinated uniformly well. On May 9 the crop condition was above average, but not so good as at the same time last year.

FLAX FIBER: Production in specified countries, average 1909-13,
annual 1924 to 1927

Country	: Average : : 1909-13 : : 1/ :	: 1924 : : 1,000 : : pounds :	: 1925 : : 1,000 : : pounds :	: 1926 : : 1,000 : : pounds :	: 1927 : : 1,000 : : pounds :
Russia (European & Asiatic)	: 739,990:	538,363:	686,072:	780,038:	749,574
Poland	: 47,356:	96,222:	131,912:	131,311:	148,812
Lithuania	: 49,703:	71,859:	91,184:	84,607:	73,987
Belgium	:2/ 51,883:	35,379:	51,352:	76,896:	72,790
Latvia	: 62,318:	57,708:	66,138:	55,820:	40,940
Netherlands	:2/ 17,276:	20,490:	23,925:	23,048:	12,125
France	: 40,732:	33,870:	44,469:	33,064:	48,578
Czechoslovakia	: 39,143:	27,046:	30,137:	24,339:	25,386
Estonia	: 49,518:	23,684:	29,983:	20,425:	21,267
Austria	: 7,480:	7,706:	8,277:	7,425:	5,357
Italy	: 6,675:	4,542:	5,688:	5,512:	4,608
Rumania	:3/ 11,044:	14,042:	7,498:	4,735:	5,353
Yugoslavia	: 22,277:	18,683:	22,518:	18,999:	---
Hungary	: 6,671:	3,829:	6,393:	3,194:	3,375
Spain	:2/ 1,995:	1,300:	1,370:	1,573:	1,649
Bulgaria	:3/ 382:	191:	197:	146:	159
Japan	: 30,003:	48,487:	74,045:	12,107:	11,666
Northern Ireland	:4/ 19,500:	13,035:	13,104:	13,498:	11,000
Irish Free State	:4/ 4,200:	3,017:	3,418:	2,567:	---
Total countries reporting:	:	:	:	:	:
1924 to 1927	:1,181,649:	997,753:	1,271,744:	1,277,738:	1,236,626
Estimated world total ...	:1,220,700:	1,026,800:	1,307,100:	1,318,000:	---

Compiled from reports of the International Institute of Agriculture.

1/ Where changes in territory have occurred averages are estimated for territory within present boundaries.

2/ Three-year average.

3/ Two-year average.

4/ Total production in Ireland in 1909-13 averaged 23,700,000 pounds.

Estimates have been made for the present divisions by applying to the 1909-13 total production the percentage of the total produced by each division during the years 1922-1926.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Bureau of Agricultural Economics
Washington

F.S.
HE-37

FOREIGN NEWS ON HEMP

July 21, 1928

1.9
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JUL 30 1928

HEMP OUTLOOK IN NORTHERN ITALY

The good weather that prevailed in Northern Italy during June has been of great benefit to the hemp crop and the maturing crop has to a large extent regained the ground previously lost, according to a report received in the Foreign Service of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from Consul J. E. Haven at Florence. The height of the plant varies considerably in various districts, ranging in general from 59 to 80 inches. Where the plant is tallest the fields are more sparsely covered. This is one of the results of poor germination. By June 22 approximately 60 per cent of the crop had reached its normal height for that time of the season.

A considerable proportion of the plants had already formed their seed heads late in June in the Bologna district but that development was practically non-existent in the Ferrara province. While considerable damage could still be done by winds and rains, the fears expressed earlier in the season were not expected to materialize so far as quantity is concerned if favorable weather continued, according to the Consul. The quality, however, will remain uncertain until the hemp is actually harvested. In general it is felt that the new crop will be very mixed as to quality. Seed is likely to be very abundant next season as much of the crop was sown for that purpose.

No information has been received in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics to indicate a change in the earlier estimate of 77,000 short tons for 1928 as compared with 71,500 short tons during 1927. (See Foreign Service Release F. S. He-54, July 18, 1928.) The stocks of old crop hemp on hand on June 15 were estimated at between 15,000 and 17,000 tons.

